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News Release

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Fire Restrictions in Western Nevada Start July 1

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Carson City Field Office, the Carson & Bridgeport Ranger Districts of the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest, and the Nevada Division of Forestry's Sierra Forest Fire Protection District announce the implementation of fire restrictions at 12:01 a.m. on Saturday, July 1, 2006, and lasting until further notice.

Increasing daily temperatures and high winds are quickly drying out vegetation in western Nevada and eastern California. Two consecutive wet winters have produced a large crop of grass and brush at lower elevations, which could become particularly dangerous if they catch fire. The public is encouraged to safely enjoy the public lands, bearing in mind that the recent Cannon, Martis, Waterfall, and Andrew fires were all human-caused.

Motorists are advised to be careful when driving off-road, because hot exhaust systems can ignite dry grasses. The potential for another devastating fire during the summer is very real. Report fires to the Interagency Dispatch Center, Minden, Nevada, (775) 883-5995, or dial 911.

Fire Restrictions Prohibit:

1. Building, maintaining, attending or using a fire, campfire, or stove fire except a portable stove using gas or pressurized liquid fuel, outside of a developed fee campground or picnic area (except by permit).
2. Smoking, except within an enclosed vehicle or at a developed campground or picnic area.
3. Welding, or operating an acetylene torch with open flames, except by permit.
4. Using or causing to be used, any explosive, except by permit.
5. Possession/use of fireworks, tracer rounds, steel-core ammunition, or any other incendiary device.
6. Open burning (e.g. weeds, brush and yard debris).

In addition, the Nevada Division of Forestry restrictions within the Sierra Fire Protection District prohibit operating vehicles off of existing hard surface gravel roads or dirt roads in wildland areas, and operating vehicles or equipment traveling on or using wildland areas without at least an axe, shovel and one gallon of water. The BLM and Forest Service recommend avoiding cross-country travel whenever possible to prevent grass from igniting from hot exhaust systems. All agencies recommend that individuals carry cell phones while in the wildlands or national forests to report wild fires.

Affected Areas:

BLM -all areas, roads and trails on BLM-Carson Field Office lands outside of a developed recreation sites with the exception of Sand Mountain Recreation Area, and the portion of the

Walker Lake Recreation Area within 100 yards of Walker Lake or between Walker Lake and U.S. Highway 95 where camp fires are permitted; and

Forest Service - all areas, roads and trails, with the exception of campfires covered by a valid campfire permit in the Hope Valley & Blue Lakes areas and within the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness. In addition to these campfire restrictions, the Jacks Valley Wildlife Area southwest of Carson City will be closed to all motorized travel; and

NDF – all areas, roads and trails within the boundaries of the Sierra Forest Fire Protection District in Carson City, Douglas County, and within state parks and state lands in Washoe County. These restrictions also apply to Storey County.

Another example of potential fire danger is the use of charcoal grills. Charcoal burns longer and hotter than wood and may appear to be cold; however, embers can linger for hours. Winds can spread the embers from charcoal and campfires into vegetation, igniting a wildfire. Propane or white gas stoves are acceptable for use during fire restrictions.

As fire season continues the BLM, Forest Service and NDF and will be aggressively citing those who do not comply with the posted restrictions and those who use or possess fireworks. Violation of these prohibitions is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both, as Class B Misdemeanors under federal law (agency statutes vary). Persons may also be responsible for resource damage, suppression costs, and any injuries that occur if they are found liable for causing a wildfire.

For more information or clarification on the restrictions, please contact the BLM-Carson City Field Office at 775-885-6000, the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest at 775-882-2766 (Carson Ranger District) or 760-932-7070 (Bridgeport Ranger District), or the Nevada Division of Forestry at 775-849-2500.